

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

TRIP OF SUNDAY, MAY 15 TO SMITHTOWN, LONG ISLAND

Five members and eleven guests decided to take for better or for worse the threatening weather of early Sunday morning and were on hand at the Smithtown station by eleven o'clock. Those with cars gathered in those who had arrived by train and the entire party drove west to that part of Smithtown, Suffolk County, known as the Head-Of-The-River to "Cedar Acres," the summer home of the leader. From this point the group botanized for about two and one half hours walking through the adjoining Wyandanch Club area which offered along and near the brookside excellent stands of *Caltha palustris*, *Sisymbrium nasturtium-aquaticum*, *Drosera rotundifolia* and *Toxicodendron vernix*. On the way back for lunch a much drier route was taken and the following plants were particularly observed: *Kalmia angustifolia*, *K. latifolia*, *Epigaea repens*, *Trillium cernuum*, *Viola cucullata*, *Ilex glabra*, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, *Lupinus perennis*, *Prunus pumila*, *Myrica carolinensis*, *Comptonia peregrina*, *Uvularia sessilifolia*, *Comandra umbellata*, *Hudsonia tomentosa*, *Tithymalopsis ipecacuanhae*, *Viola pedata*, *Silene caroliniana*, *Trientalis americana*, *Pedicularis canadensis*, *Cypripedium acaule*, *Sisyrinchium graminoides* and *Linaria canadensis*.

The mycological enthusiasts reported *Urnula craterium*, *Tremellodon auranteum*, *Pholiota praecox*, *Hirneola auricula-judae*, *Schizophyllum commune* and *Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae*.

After lunch part of the group hiked about three miles to the Kings Park station and in between the showers attempted to botanize. Two members boarded the New York train and the others tramped back to Smithtown to join those returning by car. In spite of the weather photographs were attempted of groups of *Trillium cernuum*.

ELIZABETH C. HALL

TRIP OF MAY 28-29TH TO THE POCONOS

On Saturday a party of five met at Cresco. The afternoon was spent roaming over the delightful property of Hotel Cliff View, which extends from the road at an elevation of 1,200 feet

back to the top of the cliff on Cresco Heights, over 1,700 feet above sea level. Identification of about fifty species was made by Dr. Chute and Dr. Small of the New Jersey College for Women.

The blunt lobed woodsia fern (*Woodsia obtusa*) was found on the wooded slopes, while at the top of the mountain, growing on a low ledge exposed to the sun, was a fine stand of the rusty woodsia (*Woodsia ilvensis*).

It was a delight to find, along the top of the cliff, the two northern species, *Potentilla tridentata* and *Arenaria groenlandica*. The latter, in full bloom, gave the appearance in places where water seeped from the very edge of the cliff, of miniature alpine gardens. The species appear to be confined to the narrow exposed treeless strip along the top of the cliff and although in fair abundance here should be given protection. In the woods a few feet from these northern species were found the pitch pine and the black scrub oak, typical of the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

Several plants of the pink lady slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) were found and of course blueberry and huckleberry plants, since this is huckleberry country.

A brief sprinkle hastened the descent of the party to the hotel where an excellent meal was served by Mr. and Mrs. Dickey, who invited us to visit the property at any time.

The next day the party was increased by four, and a deep ravine three miles to the west was visited. According to tradition a cave said to exist near the top of the ravine was a hiding place and lookout for the Indians from whence they could swoop down on the settlers as they passed by with their cattle. From this the place came to be called "The Devil's Hole."

Rhododendron is plentiful on the sides of the ravine and must be a pleasant sight when in bloom. In the woods were seen several of the pink moccasin flower, called "Duck flower" by the Pennsylvania Dutch people. A small colony of walking fern, which the writer had located previously and thought he knew just where to find, eluded the first search and was only found on the return trip, growing on a boulder alongside the trail. The maidenhair spleenwort was found on the sandstone cliff nearby, while the lance-leaved grape fern (*Botrychium lanceolatum*, var. *angustisegmentum*) was found growing in the woods. Altogether

about fourteen species of ferns were identified. Violets were plentiful, some species past blooming. *Trillium erectum* was found but with flowers dried up. A total of about thirty species of plants was noted, not including duplicates seen the day before.

Early in the afternoon a stop was made at a pleasant waterfall, wood gathered, and steak, coffee, etc., cooked over the open fire. After resting the return trip was made.

A portion of the party then drove westward over the Pocono Plateau, finding the rhodora, painted trillium and bunchberry in bloom. The occurrence of the painted trillium was noteworthy, coming up in great numbers in a recently burned over area. Perhaps it is normally just as plentiful, but being almost the first plant to appear against the black background presented a striking picture.

J. L. RODDA

TRIP OF JULY 2-4, TO THE PINE BARRENS

Some eight members and friends of the Club took part, off and on, in this week-end outing. Leaving Old Bridge, we followed a back road across a "pine barrens island" through pitch pine and oak with some of the characteristic ground plants such as *Hudsonia*. We came off the "island" at Tennent into the fertile Monmouth County region. A short stop was made at Tennent Church, this being only four days from the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth, and Independence Day week-end. At Smithburg we took the Court House Road which follows the Monmouth-Ocean County Line, continuing to Prospertown for our first botanical stop. The usual meadow and marsh plants were found back of the remains of the dam, but in the spillway near the old water wheel were a few plants of *Nymphoides lacunosum*. The water moss, *Fontinallis* grows here and the red alga, *Batrachospermum*.

Our next stop was at a lake about one mile east of Colliers Mill. This small lake is being closed over by a floating bog type of vegetation. At the east end this is composed of *Sphagnum* and *Chamaedaphne*, at the west end the dominant plant is *Carex exilis*. The abandoned pits of a charcoal burner were found nearby. At Colliers Mill we met Ivins Grant and he invited us to have our lunch on the shore of the lake. Pondweed

and white water lilies were abundant and Mr. Frazee found some water shield (*Brasenia*). After passing through more of the forgotten towns, climbing a fire tower, and crossing the west plains, we reach Simplace and stopped by a young cranberry bog. A natural bog was found across the road and here we observed *Narthecium americanum*, *Tofieldia glutinosa*, *Lophiola aurea*, *Polygala lutea*, *Drosera filiformis* and *Sarracenia purpurea* in flower. Schizea was present and interested the members of the party, but no more I think than did the large and luscious fruits of *Vaccinium corymbosum*.

In the east plains, we observed an extensive stand of *Corema* and the other characteristic plants of the area. Mr. Coles found a nest of the chewink, which was duly photographed and left. Anderson's tree frog was heard near the little pond but could not be located for study. Pine Barrens lizards had been seen commonly. We proceeded to Tuckerton over the back road. Here we were soon joined by Ora Smith who had responded favorably to the stimulus of a special delivery letter. Finding shelter along the Shore Road on the Fourth of July week-end is something of a problem but this detail was finally arranged and the latter part of the evening was spent on the dunes in the vicinity of Barnegat Light. This was found to be the optimum time for studying certain marine fauna.

Mr. and Mrs. William Gavin Taylor joined us Sunday morning and Mr. Frazee returned to the group. Some members of the party expressed a desire to compare the bogs of Cape May with those of the pine barrens so after a visit to Bass River State Forest to see the stands of several different pines and other conifers, we pushed south. A stop along Wading River afforded a study of marsh vegetation. *Pontederia*, in full flower, was the most common. *Peltandra*, *Orontium*, and *Acorus* represented the *Araceae*. Cattails were common. A single green orchid was seen. There was an abundance of white water lily as in all the bogs and marshes at this season. We drove through the cedar propagation project in Green Bank State Forest. In a nearby typical pine barrens stand Mrs. Eustachio found a puff adder or hog-nosed snake. This reptile went through all of its tricks of bluffing for us and was photographed in action.

In Cape May County we visited a bog near Bennett's and one in West Cape May. Plants seen which were less common or

missing in the Pine Barrens included Spanish oak, shingle oak, persimmon, *Asclepias rubra*, *Sclerolepis uniflora*, and *Aletris farinosa*. The unusual orchids of these bogs were not in flower. Some species of *Polygala* were in flower as were *Spiranthes*, *Rhexia virginica*, *Proserpinaca pectinata* and *Eriophorum*. This was the only place where we saw *Tripsacum dactyloides*. After a short time on the beach at Cape May Point, collecting "Cape May Diamonds," we drove to Hammonton. Before retiring we saw some moving pictures of charcoal burning and a reel of kodachrome pictures of plants of the sand bars.

On Monday morning Mr. James Bassett showed us through his nursery and warehouses where many species of pine barrens and coastal plants are propagated or otherwise put to commercial use. Next we were the guests of Dr. Darrow, of the U.S.D.A., at his experimental plots near Weymouth. The newly developed varieties of cultivated blueberries were just about at their height and it was a pleasure to pass judgment on the quality and flavor of the various selections. From Weymouth we crossed through Batsto, and Washington to Martha. We examined the ruins of the old furnace and saw the display of bog plants again but in greater abundance and on a much larger scale than before. At the upper bog we crossed through a large savanna of several acres where *Nartheceum americanum* was abundant. *Sabatia lanceolata* was common. We saw *Utricularia cornuta*, *U. fibrosa*, *U. subulata*, and *U. resupinata*. Around the furnace there was an abundance of ebony spleenwort and *Opuntia*. Back in the dry barrens we observed more dwarf chestnut oak than we had seen elsewhere.

JOHN A. SMALL